

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

Leadership and Coordination Working Group

Thursday September 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Douglas Witte (Arizona State Land Department)
Gary Russell (USDA APHIS)
Jeffery Meyers (Arizona Department of Agriculture)
Brian McGrew (Arizona Department of Agriculture)
Joanne Roberts (Arizona State Parks) via teleconference
Larry Riley (Arizona Game and Fish Department)
Tonya Norwood-Pearson (AACD)
Kris Randall (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Cindy Copping (Cattle Industry) via teleconference
Richard Brusca (Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum)
John Gerstenberger (PETsMART)
Tom Klabunde (US Forest Service, Tonto National Forest)
Cheryl Lombard (The Nature Conservancy)

Meeting Minutes:

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Leadership and Coordination Working Group was called to order at 10 a.m. on September 6th, 2007 in room 321 of the Arizona State Land Dept. 1616 W. Adams, Phoenix Arizona.

The group had planned for a potential conference call with Dr. Yool of the University of Arizona. Dr. Yool, a professor at the University, is conducting a graduate level seminar course regarding Invasive Species Planning for Arizona. Dr. Yool was unavailable for the conference call and it was deferred until a subsequent working group meeting.

The group reviewed work that had been completed from the August 16th meeting, and discussed progress. Particular attention was paid to review of reformat of committee work already completed. That information was incorporated into a plan “template”. The template was shared and compilations were edited.

Objective 1

In Section A.1 of the Template, the group discussed replacement process for Council members. The following elements were agreed to:

- If a representative can no longer serve, the Council will seek timely replacement within 90 days. It is the responsibility of the Council member to recommend replacement for the entity to the Governor’s Office. The focus was on replacement prior to the next meeting of the Council. The term “alternate” was to be replaced with the term “designee”, and that term should be used consistently.

In section A.1.2 the following items were removed:

- Struck “A Council member will be identified as leads for each named agency and will identify a staff person to provide assistance to those non-government agencies.”

In Section A.1. 4 the group discussed planning horizons. There was general consensus around a 5 year planning horizon with annual evaluation of progress against benchmarks or measures of success of the plan. The group considered two year review of benchmarks in the form of performance evaluation. The Plans is intended to be a dynamic document. The Plan would be reviewed for potential update and revision as needed every 5 years. The subject of regional differences was broached regarding diversity of issues across Arizona. Yuma will have different issues than Flagstaff. The issue of “native” invasive species was also broached. That was a topic discussed at length with the prior Council, and the decision regarding ‘definition’ at that time (and subsequently adopted by the Governor’s Office) was to focus on ‘nonnative’ invasive species. References to “Committee” was to be changed uniformly to “Work Group”.

In Section A1.6, reference to flexibility regarding posting of meeting minutes was stricken.

Objective 2

The Work Group discussed whether we need a recommendation about seeking increased efficiencies in expenditure of resources for invasive species management by increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies within the state; with federal, tribal, and local partners; and with stakeholders.

Case studies were identified as useful side-bars for the plan. Bufflegrass was identified as a potential side-bar discussion.

The concept of an MOU among State Agencies for cooperation in invasive species management was identified as a strategy that could be incorporated into this section.

A potential recommendation (insert at A.2.9) was discussed for emergency response. The concept discussed was a funding strategy to address a critical invasion on an emergency basis. These monies would be for declared invasive species emergencies. The concept needs further development, including criteria for declaring an emergency and who would make that declaration (Governor). A potential side-bar for the plan might be reference to the current “Reid Bill” introduced to Congress.

The Work Group also discussed “non-emergency” responses. This is really “Control and Management” on ongoing invasive species. The concept discussed was a state-wide grant type program. The intent was to incorporate these concepts into:

- Existing state grants programs, where it would be applicable and eligible to the purpose area for the grant program, and
- Creation of new grant programs unique to invasive species.

Objective 3

The Work Group identified the need to identify key points of contact with State, Federal, Local, and nongovernmental organizations that would include specific contact information, and would be organized in categories such as land owner, land manager, resource user, local government, research interest, etc.

The Work Group identified the need to identify forums at the State, Regional, International, and Local level for coordination across jurisdictional boundaries.

Objective 4

The role of the Council with the Center was discussed by the Working Group. This was a difficult concept to grapple with. It was identified that”

- The Council should take an active role through a “Center for Invasive Species” in media outreach and public relations with stakeholders and the public.
- The concept for outreach should include marketing strategies for the state including concepts such as spokespersons, speakers bureaus, and social marketing strategies.

Action items included the following:

1. Larry Riley will get contact information for New Mexico and get a copy of the draft strategy invasive species plan if one exists.
2. Christine Conte has contacts in Mexico and will touch base with them. Since Christine was not present at the meeting, Joanne Roberts will follow up with Christine. Larry Riley will provide contact information for Francisco Abarca (AGFD international coordination) to Joanne and Christine.
3. Jeff Myers will contact Utah and Mexico and request management plans. Larry Riley will contact California and also request management plans.

The next meeting was scheduled for the morning of September 14th, 2007 at 10:00 am in Conference Room 321 at the State Land Department, located at 1616 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.